

CHEBOYGAN AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

100 S. Bailey Street, Cheboygan, MI 49721 • www.cheboyganlibrary.org • 231-627-2381



SEED LIBRARY

What is a Seed Library?

A seed library is a community-oriented project that allows participants to share seeds with one another by “checking out” seed packets of their choosing. A wide variety of flower, herb, fruit and vegetable seeds will be available for anyone interested to take home and plant! The “borrowing” of seeds is open to anyone and you do not need a library card to take seeds out or to bring seeds in to share.

How to Participate!

The Seed Library operates on the honor system. Anyone interested in “borrowing” seeds is welcome to take out whichever seed packets interest them. You become a member automatically when you withdraw seeds to plant.

We encourage all members to learn basic seed-saving techniques. If you are unable to save your own seeds, please consider donating a packet or two of fresh, commercially grown, open-pollinated seeds to keep the Seed Library stocked. Please drop off any seed donations to the front desk.

When you check out seeds, please fill out a Member Card, located in the first drawer of the Seed Library. The first time you fill out your card, please turn it in at the front desk. If you return to borrow more seeds, you will be able to find your card, filed alphabetically by your last name, in the Membership Drawer of the Seed Library.

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Why Seed Libraries Belong in Public Libraries

by Emily Weak, featured in Public Libraries Online Magazine 01/2015

Just as traditional libraries enrich a community by providing a way to share books, seed libraries enrich the gardening community by allowing gardeners to share seeds. There are many parallels.

Seed libraries offer a more efficient way to deploy community resources. They encourage experimentation, affording gardeners (or aspiring gardeners) a low-risk way to try something new. They provide a supported entrance into the gardening world for novices. And seed libraries support a kind-of botanical literacy, teaching people what different plants look like and how they grow.

Seed libraries also support information sharing and preservation. Gardening is a localized knowledge, built through experience. While written guidelines can be helpful, person-to-person information sharing is how gardeners can learn how to be successful in their own unique environments.

Localized knowledge can tell a gardener what the fog in San Francisco does to tomatoes, for example, or when to actually start seeds if your region never experiences a “first frost.” As our climate changes, it will be even more important to preserve and share this understanding of how to garden in a range of conditions.